



THE CITY OF  
**BENICIA**  
CALIFORNIA  
June 24, 1998

CITY HALL • 250 EAST L STREET • BENICIA, CA 94510 • (707) 746-4212 • FAX (707) 747-8120

Office of the Mayor  
JERRY HAYES

01247

**JUN 29 1998**

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Attention: Rick Breitenbach**

**Subject: City of Benicia Comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement /Environmental Impact Report for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

Dear Mr. Snow:

The City of Benicia has reviewed the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement /Environmental Impact Report for the CALFED Bay-Delta program (Draft PEIS/EIR). The City appreciates the enormous effort the CALFED program is undertaking to bring parties together to develop a long-term plan for the beneficial use of northern California water in the state. The City supports comments submitted by Solano County Water Agency for the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) users. The City would like to submit the following supporting comments for consideration in revising the document.

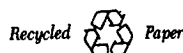
The City has two primary concerns, water quality and water supply reliability, which are addressed briefly in the following paragraphs:

**Water Quality.** During the wet season, NBA water is difficult to treat for drinking water purposes. The 1990 State Water Project Sanitary Survey identified NBA as having the worst water quality in the Project. CALFED studies show the water quality in the north delta to decrease in all three alternatives. It is imperative to NBA users that significant negative impacts occurring presently in one area are not redirected to the north delta as a result of any of the alternatives implemented. The CALFED program must consider relocating the intake or funding water quality improvement projects in the Barker Slough watershed.

**Water Supply Reliability.** During dry years, NBA water is not reliable due to a pumping restriction imposed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the protection of Delta Smelt when larval Delta Smelt are present. The CALFED program has funded and will fund habitat improvement projects which will result in an increase in the Delta Smelt population.

JERRY HAYES, Mayor  
Members of the City Council  
STEVE MESSINA, Vice Mayor • CAREY CORBALEY • JAN COX-GOLOVICH • L. STEPHEN GIZZI

OTTO WM. GIULIANI, City Manager  
VIRGINIA SOUZA, City Treasurer  
LINDA S. PURDY, City Clerk



**C - 0 1 1 8 7 7**

C-011877

Letter to CALFED

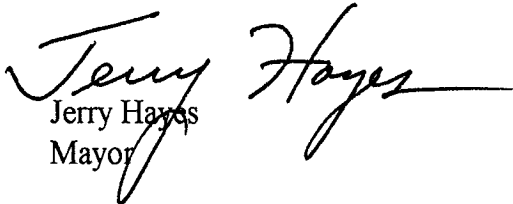
June 24, 1998

Page Two

Increasing their population at the intake may further restrict pumping. The pumping restriction must be lifted as part of the CALFED program. If CALFED intentionally increases the population of endangered species near the intake of the NBA, it is unfair to continue to limit pumping. Relocation of the NBA intake to a location away from sensitive fish habitat could be a part of the solution.

We look forward to the opportunity to comment further as this process evolves.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jerry Hayes  
Mayor

f:\pw\Virgil\Calfed.698\file:\WTP\CALFED Correspondence

cc: Otto Giuliani, City Manager  
Virgil Mustain, Director of Public Works  
Chris Tomasik, Utilities Manager  
Vicki Shidell, Water Quality Supervisor



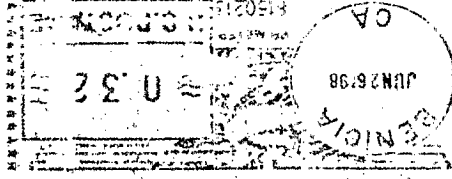
CITY HALL • 250 EAST L STREET • BENICIA, CA 94510

JUN 29 1998

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES  
SACRAMENTO

98 JUN 29 AM 11:28



95814-5509 91

C-011879

C-011879